

EYES ON THE BOARD

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BUDGET ALMOST COMPLETE

MCALLEN ISD SPECIAL MEETING~BUDGET~MAY 27, 2013~3 P.M.

Just to be clear regarding the budget~the pages of the budget are marked DRAFT, therefore, Dr. Ponce says that he does not have to give McAllen AFT a copy of the budget pages using an Open Records Request. We listened carefully, but perfect died long ago.

The budget is pretty much complete. There was a discussion of raising the beginning teacher pay to \$43,000. The discussion of teacher pay ranged from 1% to 3%. The other professional positions are unclear to us. Without paper work we cannot tell, and we don't want to mislead you. Those in the paraprofessional positions, trades,

custodial, etc. may get something like 1 to 2.5%.

There are some 86 teachers who have 32 years of experience. Dr. Ponce addressed this talent of experience as something that needed to be dealt with. Personally we say stay as long as you can~the better your retirement.

Other information was discussed as to what to do about aging buildings~sounds like a bond issue. Voting on the budget will be on June 24, 2013.

We will continue to be present at the June meetings. Please go with us to the meetings~support is needed.

MCALLEN ISD SPECIAL MEETING SWEARING IN THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND REORGANIZING THE OFFICERS~MAY

27, 2013~4:30 P.M.

Mr. John Ball and Larry Esparza were sworn in. Mr. Sam Saldivar was sworn in earlier in the week before supporters (this was allowed as he was previously a Board member).

Debby Aliseda became the Board President.

Hilda De Shazo became the VP of the Board.

Danny Vela became the Secretary of the Board.

MCALLEN ISD REGULAR MEETING~MAY 27, 2013~6 P.M.

New administrators approved by the Board:

New Seguin Principal~Gerardo Gonzalez (former Asst. Principal)

New McAuliffe Assistant Principal~pulled from agenda

New Cathey Assistant Principal~Laura Madrigal

New De Leon Assistant Principal~Samuel G. Casades

New Fossum Assistant Principal~Ignacio Ruiz, Jr.

New Lincoln Assistant Prin-

cipal~Melissa Lara

McAllen Hi Assistant Principal~Alejandro Gonzalez

New Memorial Assistant Principal~Yvonne Caldwell

New Rowe Assistant Principal~Elizabeth De Leon

New Rowe School Improvement Facilitator~Corina Saenz

Many items were approved at the first Board meeting of the month.

The ornamental fencing project at Milam will be complete by the end of the summer.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MCALLEN BOARD OF EDUCATION, MAY 13, 2013~3 p.m.

Javier Farias was absent.

Martha Owen, our attorney for the STEP CASE, and Ruth Skow appeared at a special meeting to supplement the record for the Step Case. We were asking for the money owed to previously named members for the second



SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE

year and interest.

The hearing was ordered by the Commissioner of Education as part of our case in State Court in Austin.

The hearing took nearly three (3) hours, and every detail of the case was discussed. The McAllen Board Members voted no to changes in the supplement of the record.

We hope to know a decision in about four (4) months.

SPECIAL MEETING OF MCALLEN ISD BOARD OF EDUCATION, MAY 14, 2013 3 p.m.—DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET

Javier Farias was absent. Danny Vela came in late.

The meeting began at 3 p.m. The following is a brief listing of what happened:

There was a discussion of a salary raise. It might be \$1,000 (1%) or \$1,200 (2.5%) for teachers (librarians, counselors, nurses and speech path. were not discussed). Nothing is firm yet. A second special session in the legislature may affect how quickly we will know. The second session is rumored to be about education and might be in July. More when we know.

Just to be sure you understand we are sharing what we understood. Don't shoot the messenger.

REGULAR MEETING OF MCALLEN ISD BOARD OF EDUCATION—MAY 14, 2013 8 p.m.

Javier Farias was absent.

More administrators are being added at central office. Last night the Board approved a new job position for Elementary Social Studies Coordinator; new

Elementary English language Arts Coordinator; new IB Strategist. These jobs may pay \$50,000 + \$30,000 for benefits.

The Board approved a new job description and new jobs positions for the Girls

Athletic Coordinators at all three (3) traditional high schools. Also the Board approved an overlay for the Memorial track and landscape and irrigation. McHi gym floor replacement was approved. Final cost for roof at McHi was \$143,304. The administration building was approved for a new roof (hail damage-insurance covers).

Health insurance was approved (Willis is our third-party adviser) and Blue/Cross Blue/Shield the provider. We have not seen any rate changes.

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS

In both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House, new legislation has been introduced to repeal two unfair federal Social Security offsets that harm Texas school employees and public workers in more than a dozen states. The Social Security Fairness Act of 2013 repealing the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision has been proposed as S. 896 in the U.S. Senate by Sens. Mark Begich (D-Alaska) and Susan Collins (R-Maine). In the U.S. House, the identical companion bill is H.R. 1795 by Reps. Rodney Davis (R-Illinois) and Adam Schiff (D-California).

Reps. Davis and Schiff, in reintroducing the Fairness Act earlier this month, made some key points about the injustice this legislation addresses. They noted that the two offsets unfairly reduce or eliminate Social Security benefits for millions of Americans who have devoted much of their careers to public service, such as teachers and police officers.”

They added: “We must work to ensure that public employees, just like retirees who have private pensions, receive the Social Security benefits to which they are entitled when they pay into the system.”

The authors further note: “There have been numerous congressional hearings on the Social Security Fairness Act; however, this bill has never been brought to a full House or Senate. Repeal of the WEP and GPO should be brought before the part of the discussion as Congress grapples with our current fiscal issues and reforming of the federal tax code.”

So far three senators in addition to Begich and Collins have joined in support of S. 896: Dean Heller (R-Nevada), Jack Reed (D-Rhode Island), and Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts). In the House, Reps. Davis and Schiff already have recruited 52 others as cosponsors. We are sorry to report that as yet not one senator or representative from Texas has signed on. That needs to change!

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Soon will begin the process of rewriting the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The last time Congress took on this task in 2001, we ended up with the No Child Left Behind Act, which ushered in a decade of too much testing, too many unfair evaluations, and not enough transparency or collaboration in schools across the country. Join AFT members nationwide in urging Congress to make substantial changes in the No Child Left Behind law. [Can we count you in?](#)

STUDENT-LOAN INTEREST RATES

Congress also must act quickly to keep student-loan interest rates from doubling on July 1, 2013. The Senate will be taking up a new bill that will lock in today's low student-loan rate and pay for it by ending a tax loophole that encourages companies to outsource. This bill is a win-win: It invests in the next generation and helps make sure that jobs will stay here in the United States. [Can we count you in?](#)

